

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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April 10, 2001

FROM: KEN A. MILLER, Director
Department of Public Works – Flood Control

**SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE LOCAL, STATE AND
FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OTHER INTERESTS IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED GROUP (SARWG)**

RECOMMENDATION: Acting as the governing body of the Flood Control District, approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the local, state and federal agencies and other interests for the purpose of exploring initiatives that address concerns regarding the Chino Basin and Santa Ana River watershed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Chino Basin represents both a significant economic development opportunity and a unique environmental challenge. The long-term dairy use has created severe water quality concerns that impact both the Chino Basin and the larger Santa Ana River watershed. Because of these concerns, the Santa Ana River Watershed Group (SARWG) was formed. SARWG is comprised of representatives from San Bernardino County, the cities of Ontario and Chino, the County of Riverside, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, the Orange County Water District and others concerned with this issue. Informally since early 1998, members of the SARWG have participated in discussions related to the economic development of the Chino Basin and the conversion of dairy lands to other uses. As a result of these discussions, this MOU was developed to initiate a cooperative effort between local, state and federal agencies, property owners and interested parties to address critical issues affecting the Chino Basin and the Santa Ana River watershed.

Approval of this item would formally commit the County to participate in the SARWG. This commitment would require staff to assist in developing programs and exploring funding opportunities to deal with the many concerns that impact both the Chino Basin and the greater Santa Ana River watershed. All provisions of this MOU are consistent with applicable provisions of state and federal law. If desired, the County may cease to be a party of this MOU by providing written notice of such termination to the principal conveners.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This MOU and the board item were reviewed and approved by Deputy County Counsel Charles S. Scolastico on March 6, 2001 and by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst).

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This MOU does not make any commitment of funding by the County nor any specific commitment of resources. It is unclear at this time the level of staff commitment that participation in the SARWG will require.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th

PRESENTER: Ken A. Miller

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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